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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

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COMMISSIONER

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**RECORD NUMBER OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED IN STATE
PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM**

TRENTON, NJ—Department of Personnel Commissioner Rolando Torres, Jr. hosted the State's largest annual awards ceremony May 1, 2006, at the War Memorial in Trenton with more than 350 public servants honored for outstanding work. Overall, more than 2,100 government employees were recognized by supervisors and co-workers for their respective work in State, county and municipal government.

With thousands of government employees, visitors and public officials—including cabinet members, mayors and legislators—in attendance, the ceremony honored public servants in the categories of *Heroism; Community Service; Longevity; Exceptional Service; Professional Achievement; Teamwork/Partnership Achievement; Co-Worker Recognition and Customer Service Excellence in County and Municipal Government*. This year's ceremony highlighted the participation of public servants in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort of 2005.

"A strong and effective public service is vital to the running of a State government, thus we pay tribute today to individual public servants, the best of whom provide outstanding service to our communities and the residents of New Jersey," said Governor Jon S. Corzine.

"Everyday throughout the year, the work of our public servants impacts the lives of all New Jerseyans. The individual recognition of some public servants at the Public Service Ceremony is just a small way of acknowledging the contributions of our public servants—many of whom are our friends, neighbors, and relatives," said Commissioner Rolando Torres.

In its eleventh year, the annual ceremony was held in conjunction with National Public Service Recognition Week (May 1 to May 7).

Jeannine La Rue, Deputy Chief of Staff from the Office of the Governor, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Governor, and co-presented both the Office of the Governor award for *Longevity*, and the *Heroism* awards. Kent Manahan, the nightly senior news anchor for the New Jersey Network (NJN), was the Master of Ceremony.

“All public employees are unsung heroes for quietly and competently doing a thorough job every day,” added Commissioner Torres.

For further information about the Public Service Recognition Program, please visit the Department of Personnel’s website at www.state.nj.us/personnel/programs/recognition.htm.

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The mission of the New Jersey Department of Personnel is to attract, develop and retain a high quality workforce for State, county and municipal governments and to partner with management and labor to develop a fair, efficient human resource delivery system rewarding quality, merit, and productivity.